CRACKLE
CRACKLE

BLINK
HNG...

...?
RUSTLE
YEONGNO...?

YEONGNO!

WHERE'D SHE GO?

PLOP

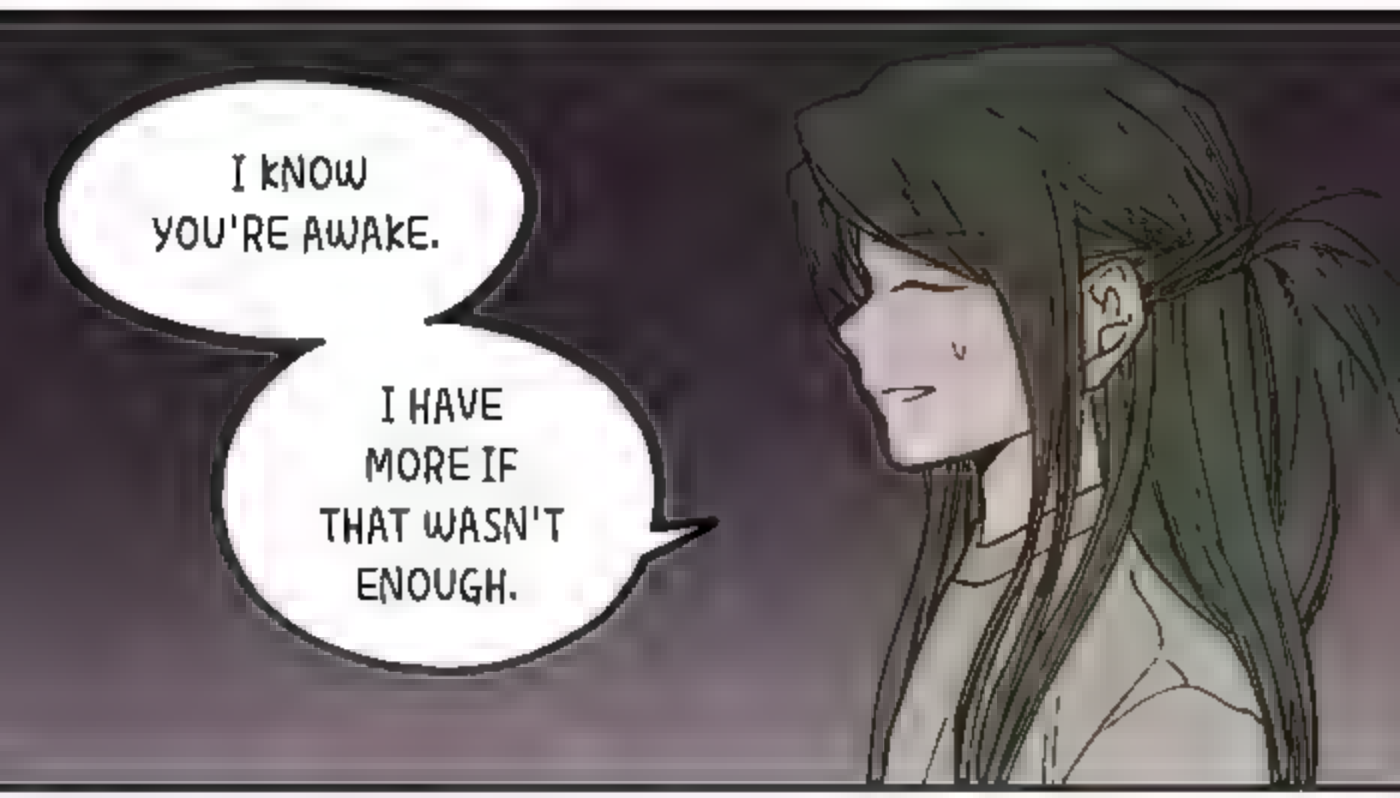
PLOP

...
RUMMAGE

WHOOSH

PLIP
PLIP

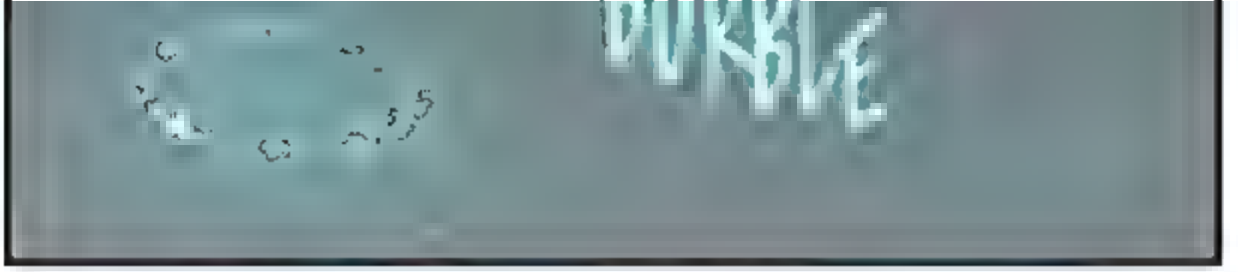
SILENCE


I KNOW YOU'RE AWAKE.
I HAVE MORE IF THAT WASN'T ENOUGH.

SO PLEASE...

...LET US SPEAK FACE-TO-FACE.

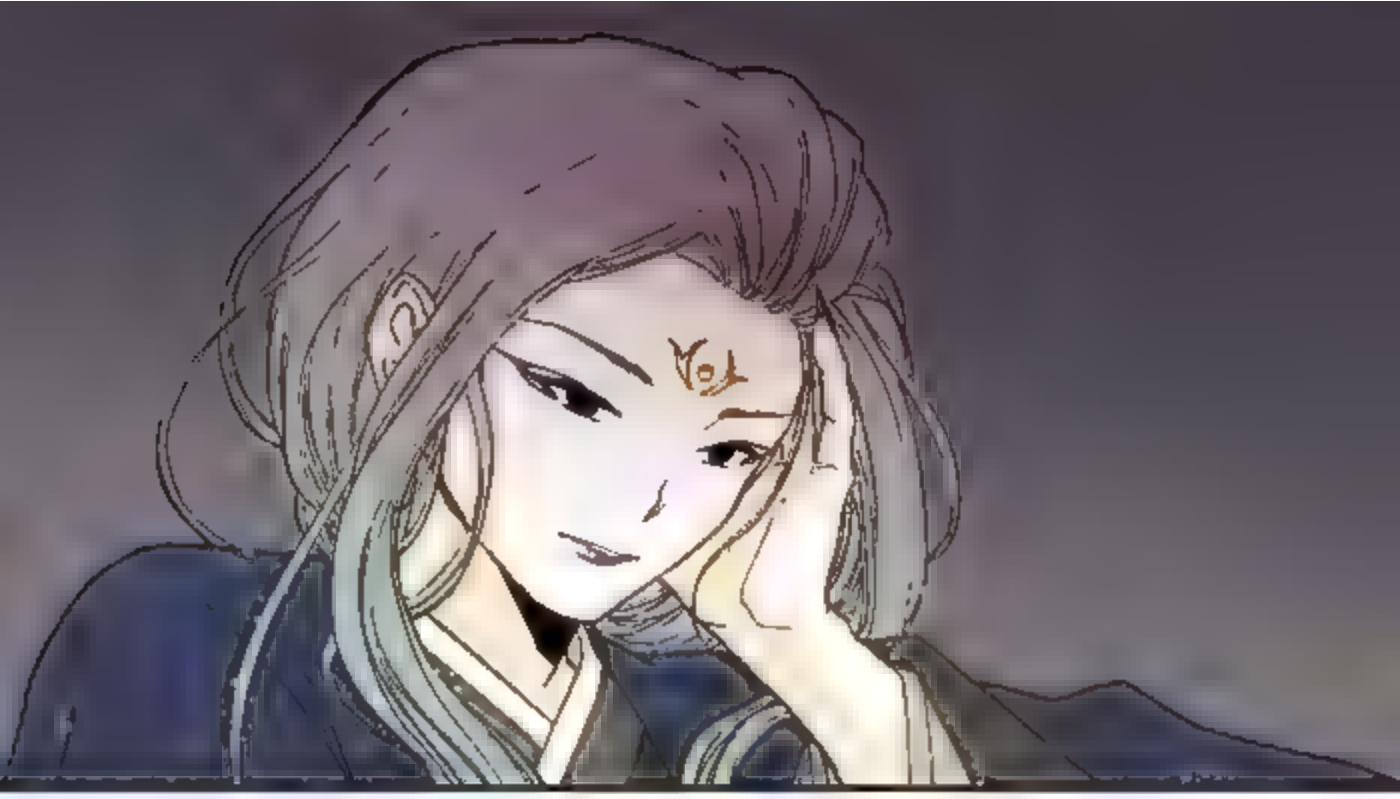
BURBBLE


BURBLE

BLRP
BLRP

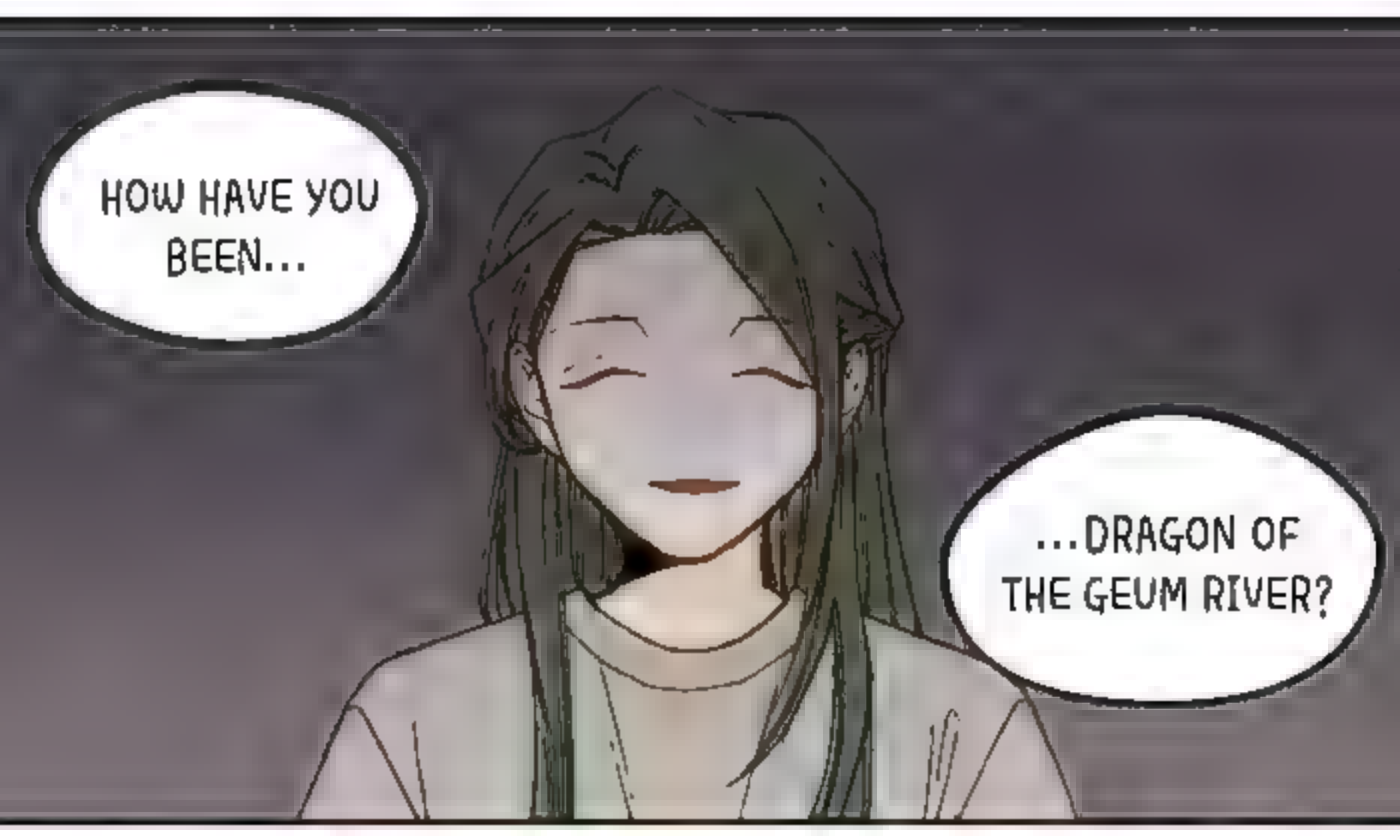
SHWAAA

SWISH



ARROGANT
FOOL.

HOW DARE AN IMOOGI PESTER A DRAGON IN SUCH A MANNER?


HOW HAVE YOU BEEN...
...DRAGON OF THE GEUM RIVER?

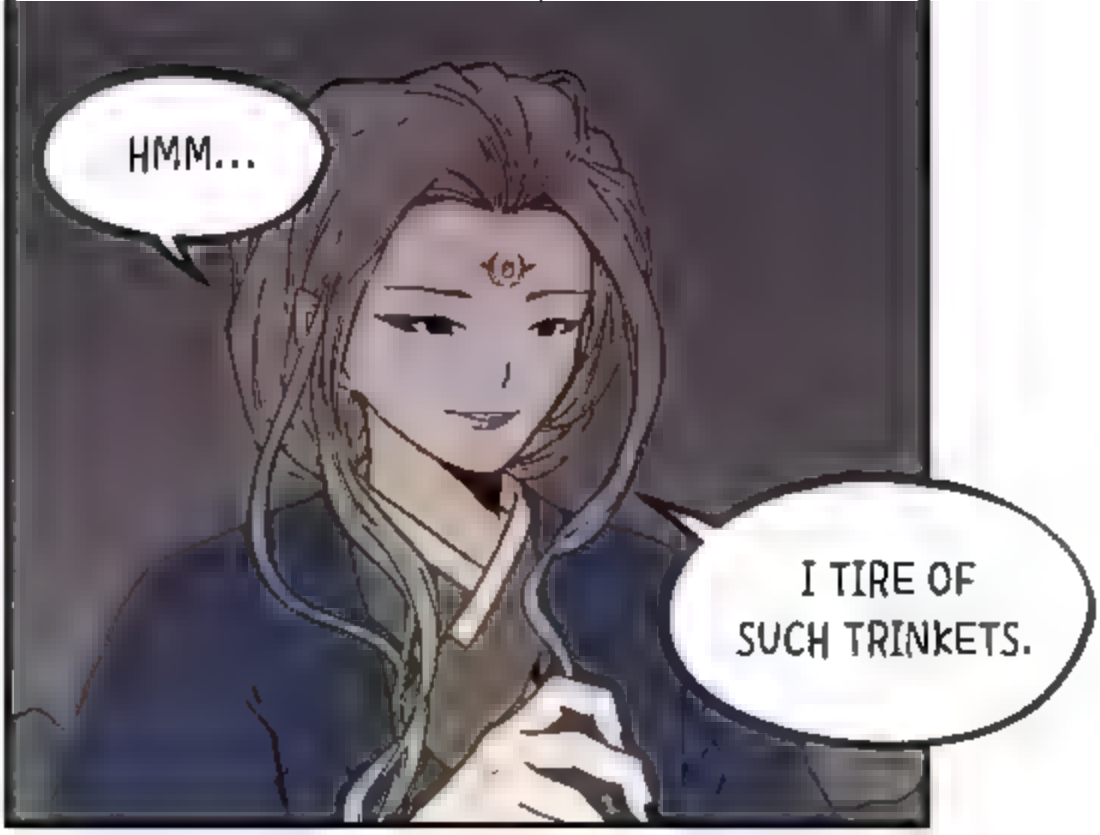
How to become a Dragon

- EPISODE 60 -

WELL, WELL...
STEP
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I LAST SAW YOUR FACE.

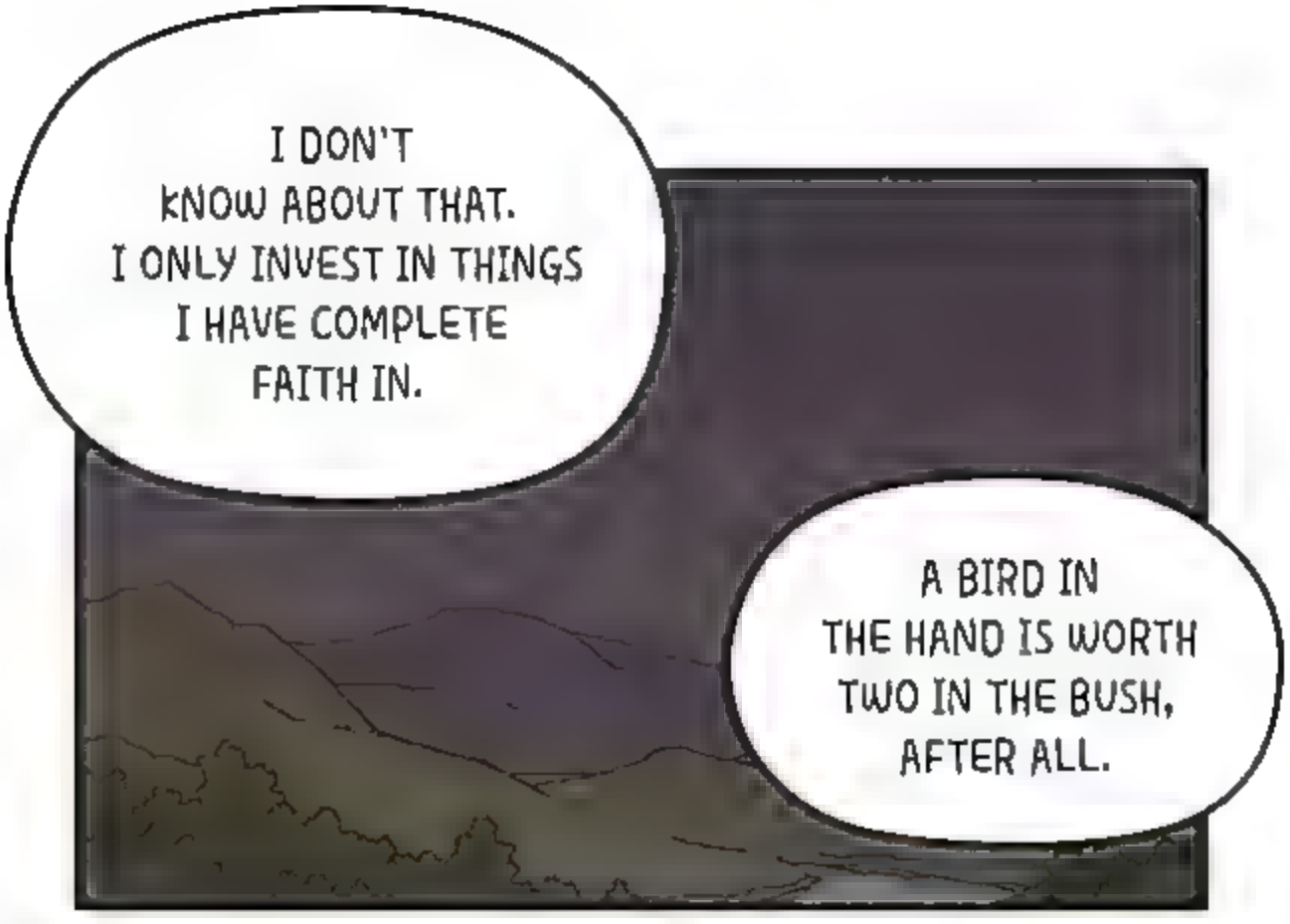
THERE'S BEEN QUITE A COMMOTION SINCE THE PASSING OF THE NAKDONG RIVER DRAGON.
LET ME GUESS. YOU'RE HERE FOR A RECOMMENDATION, ARE YOU NOT?

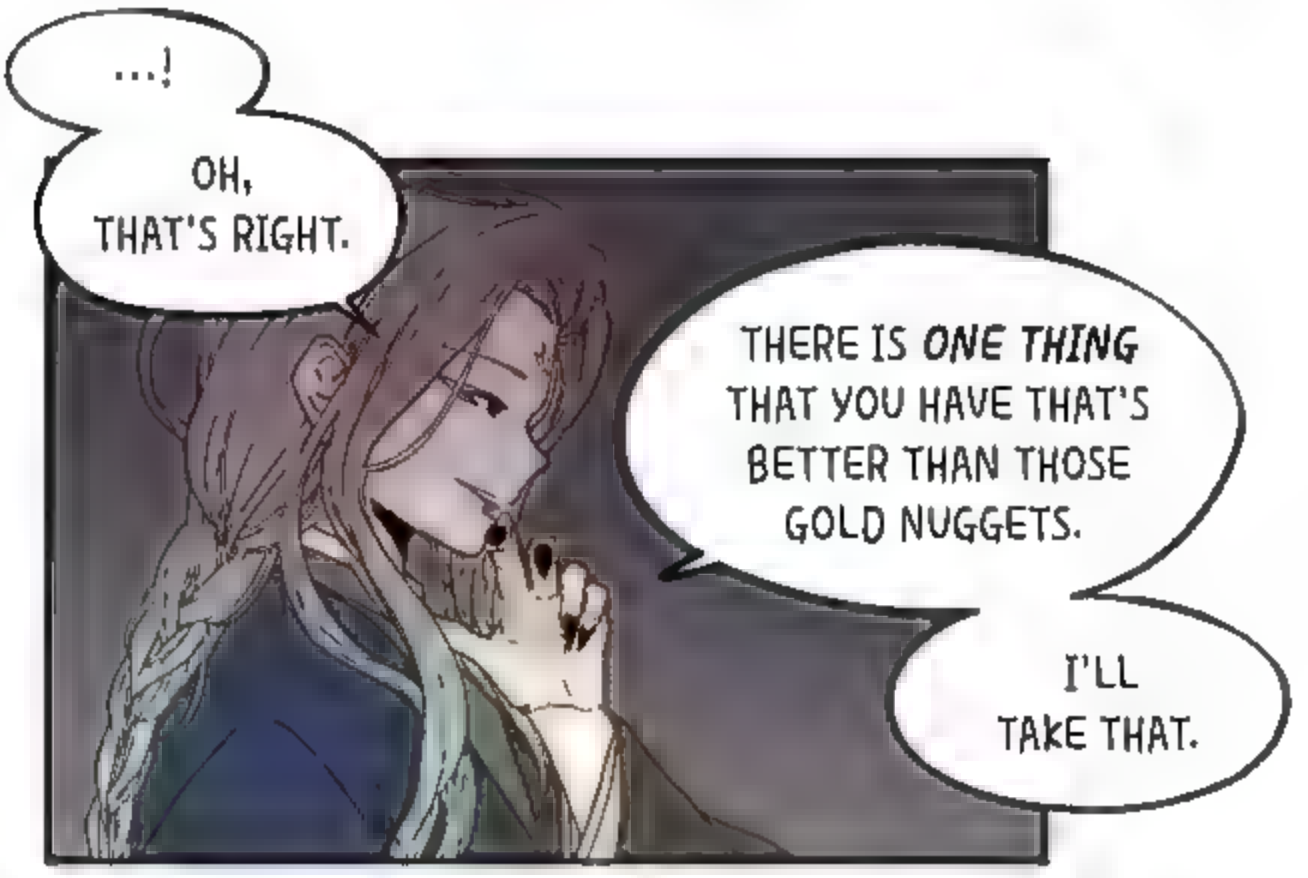
YES,
AND I HOPE YOU
CAN HELP ME.
I HAVE
PLENTY OF GOLD,
SO...


HMM...
I TIRE OF SUCH TRINKETS.

IF I BECOME THE NAKDONG RIVER DRAGON WITH YOUR HELP...
...I'LL BE ABLE TO REPAY YOUR

KINDNESS TENFOLD.




...!
OH, THAT'S RIGHT.
THERE IS ONE THING THAT YOU HAVE THAT'S BETTER THAN THOSE GOLD NUGGETS.
I'LL TAKE THAT.

...EXCUSE ME?

I'M NOT SURE
I FOLLOW...
I AM
REFERRING
TO...
...THE HUMAN YOU
BROUGHT WITH YOU.

DIDN'T YOU BRING IT AS AN OFFERING?

THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE.

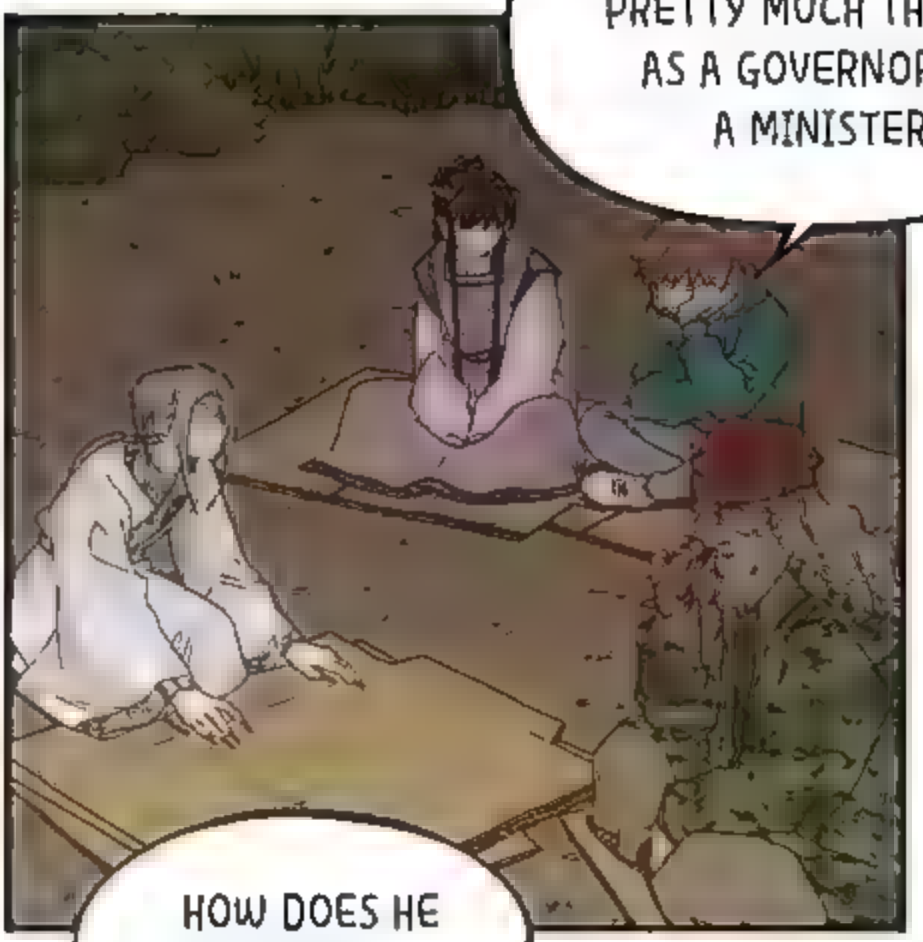
GIVE ME THE HUMAN, AND I'LL GIVE YOU YOUR RECOMMENDATION.

HOW DOES
THAT SOUND?

...
I MEAN...

...HOW IS IT POSSIBLE FOR A HIGH-RANKING GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL TO BE ILLITERATE?

ISN'T A DRAGON PRETTY MUCH THE SAME AS A GOVERNOR? OR A MINISTER?



HOW DOES HE GIVE ORDERS?

THERE'S GOTTA BE SOME SORT OF SYSTEM.

HOW DOES HE READ OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS?

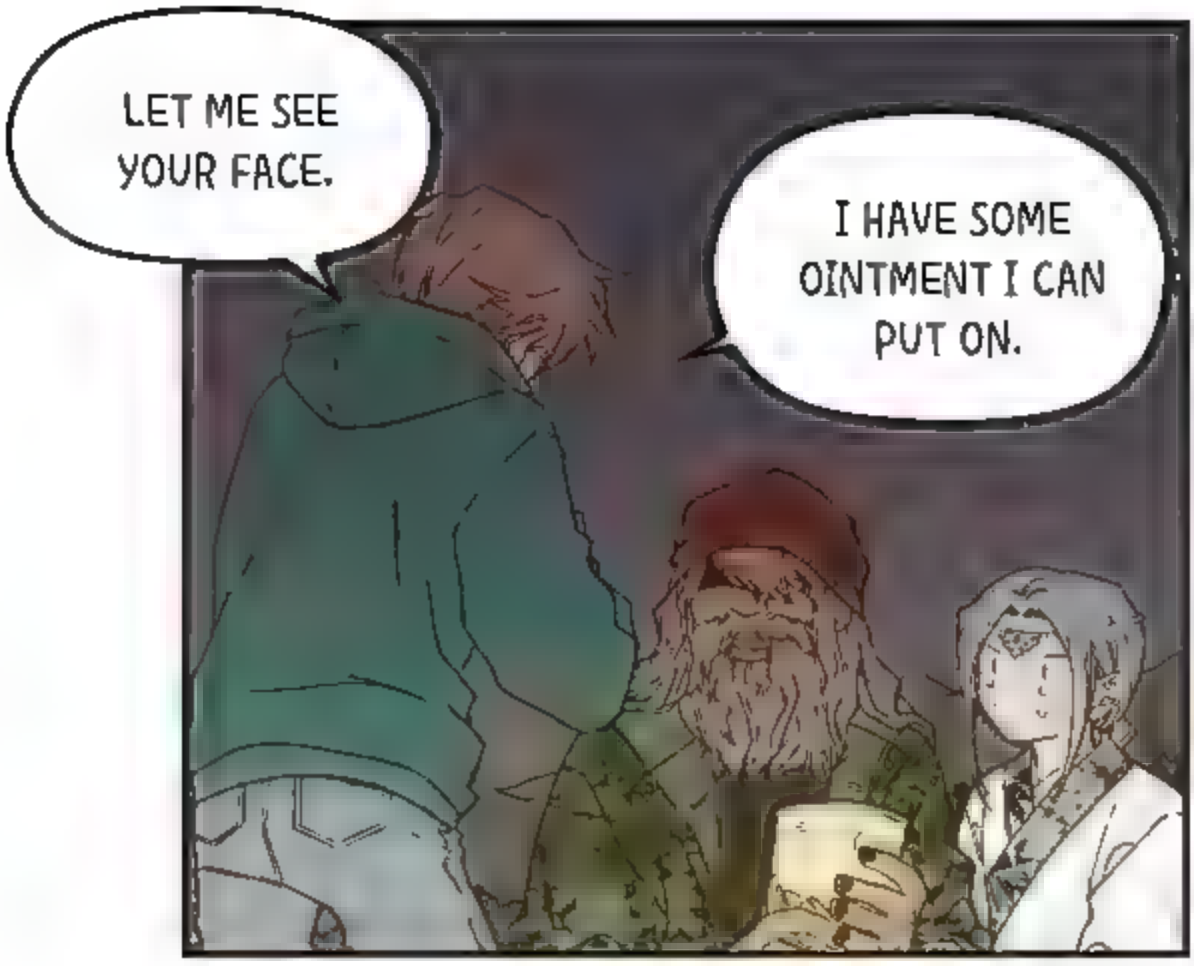
ISN'T HE IN CHARGE OF THE RIVER?
HOW CAN HE MANAGE IT WITHOUT ANY PAPERWORK?
HIS UNDERLINGS MUST BE DROWNING IN WORK EVERY DAY...
TSK TSK
EACH DRAGON TAKES CARE OF THEIR RIVER IN THEIR OWN PARTICULAR WAY!
ROAR
THERE ISN'T A SINGLE TADPOLE OR FLECK OF ALGAE THAT ISN'T HAPPY WITH LORD GUAHM FOR EVERYTHING HE DOES TO LOOK AFTER HIS DOMAIN!

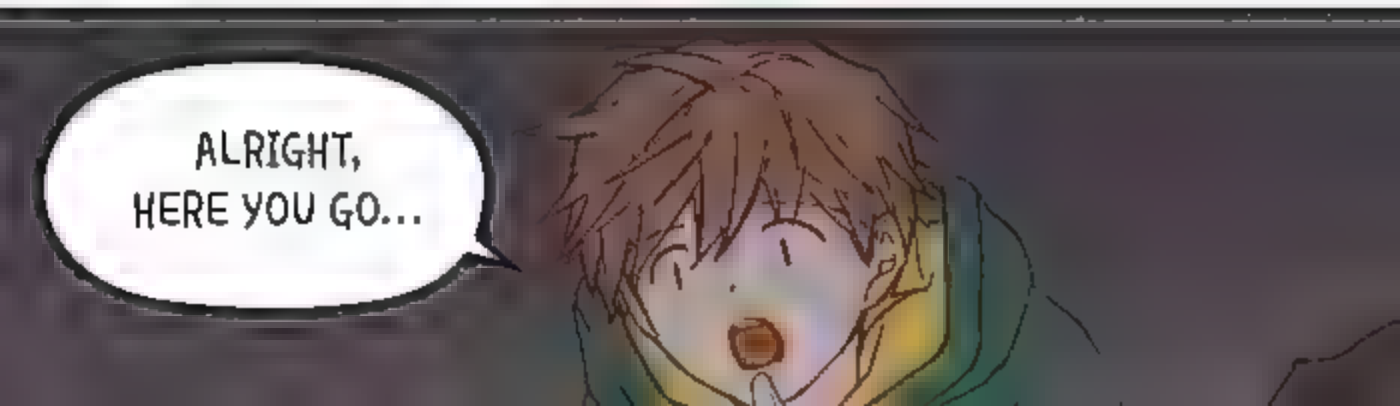
YOU SAY THAT, BUT HAS HE NO SENSE OF DIGNITY?
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
IS *THIS* ANY WAY FOR A DRAGON TO ACT?

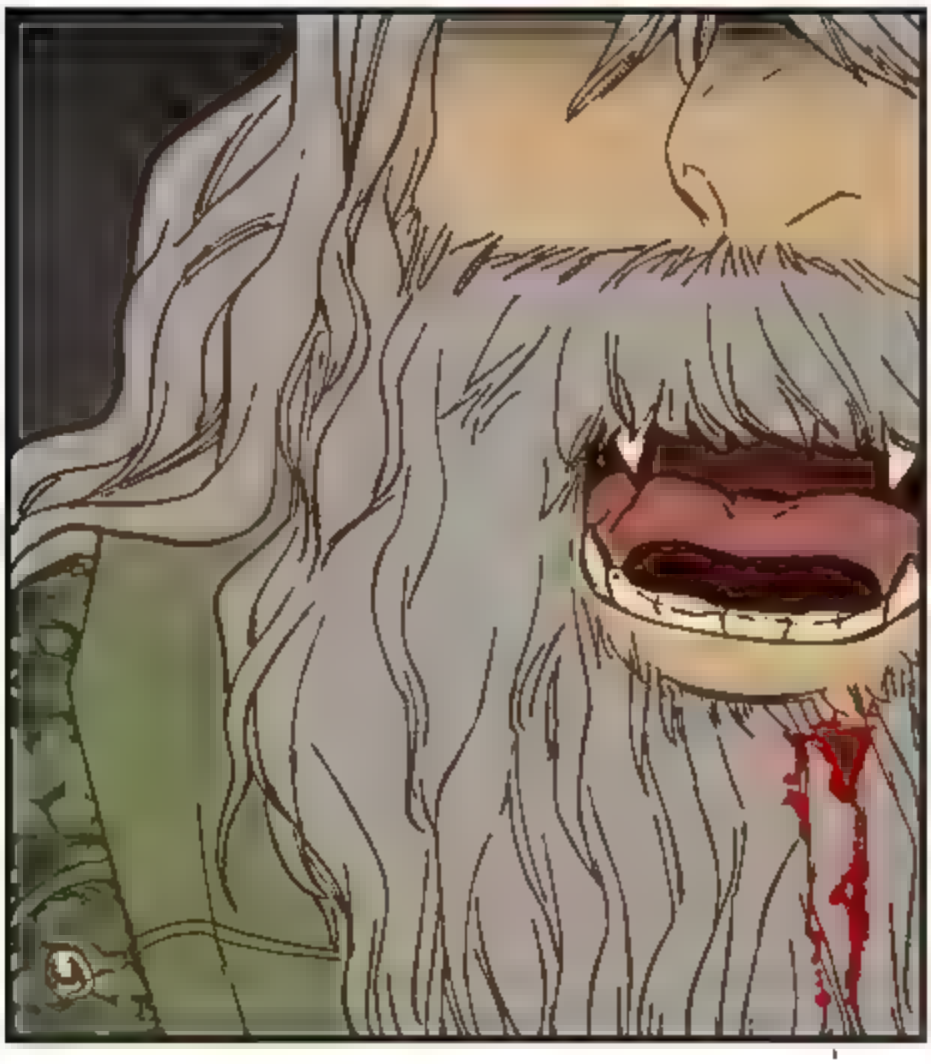
FLINCH
!!!
DRIP

CORN
LORD GUAHM!
EEK

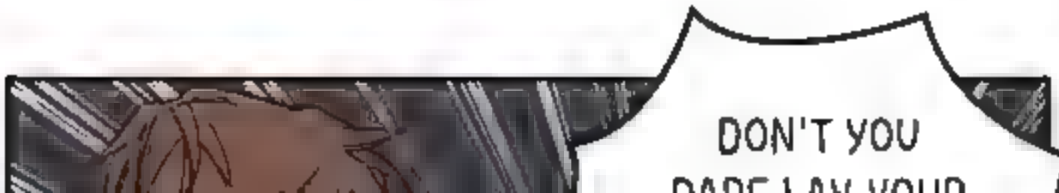
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN EATING THAT.
RUMMAGE
I GOT YOU PERFECTLY GOOD CHICKEN...

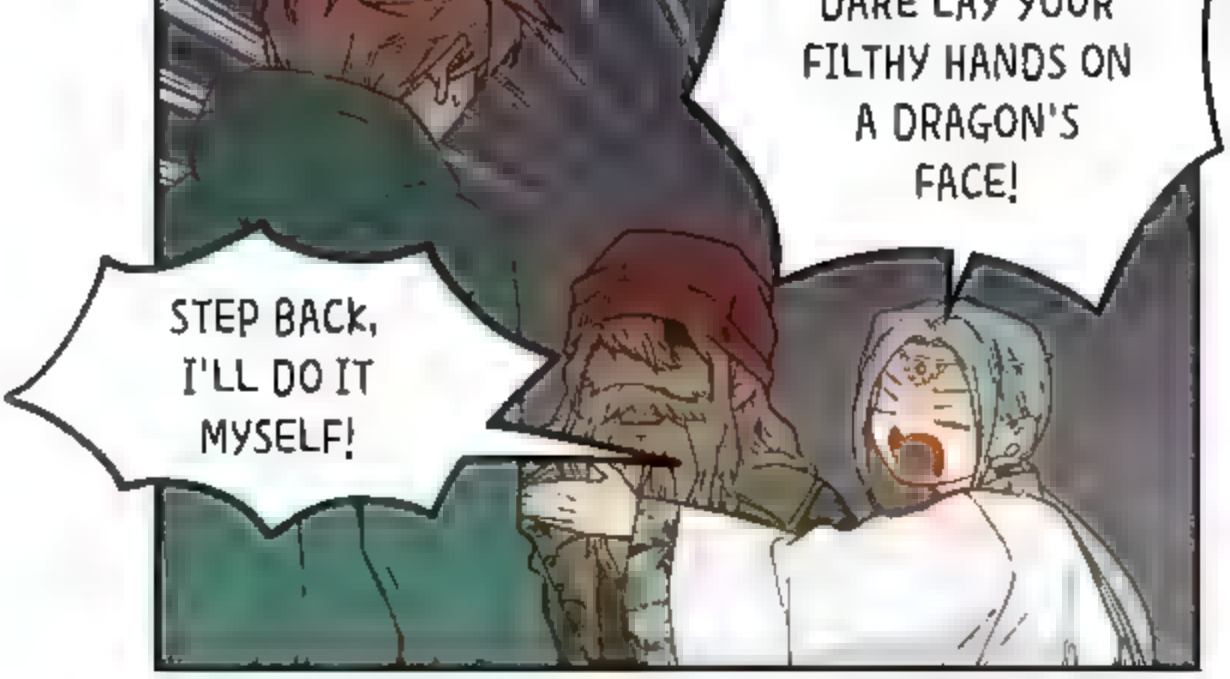

LET ME SEE YOUR FACE.
I HAVE SOME OINTMENT I CAN PUT ON.


ALRIGHT, HERE YOU GO...



HIS TONGUE...
HE DOESN'T HAVE ONE...?

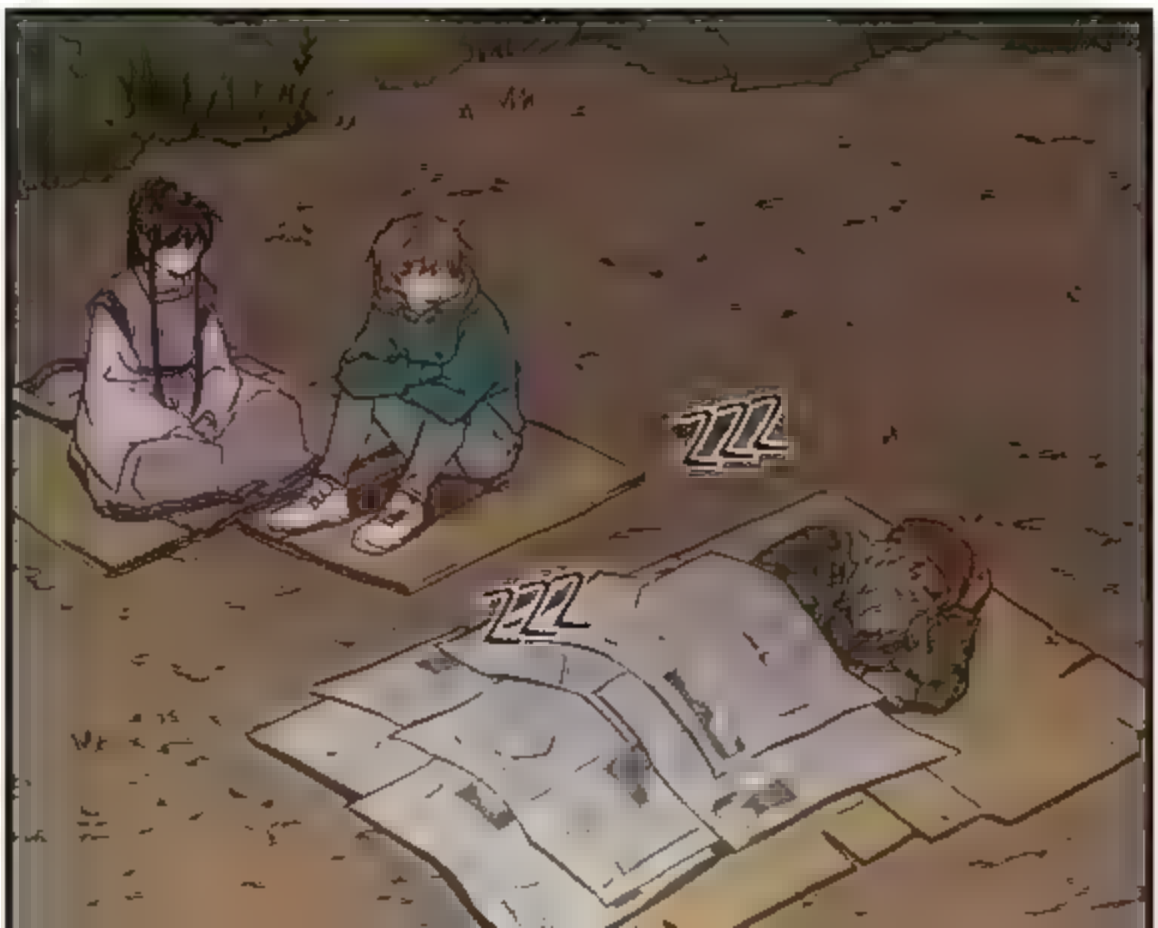

DON'T YOU


DARE LAY YOUR FILTHY HANDS ON A DRAGON'S FACE!
STEP BACK, I'LL DO IT MYSELF!

UH... SO...

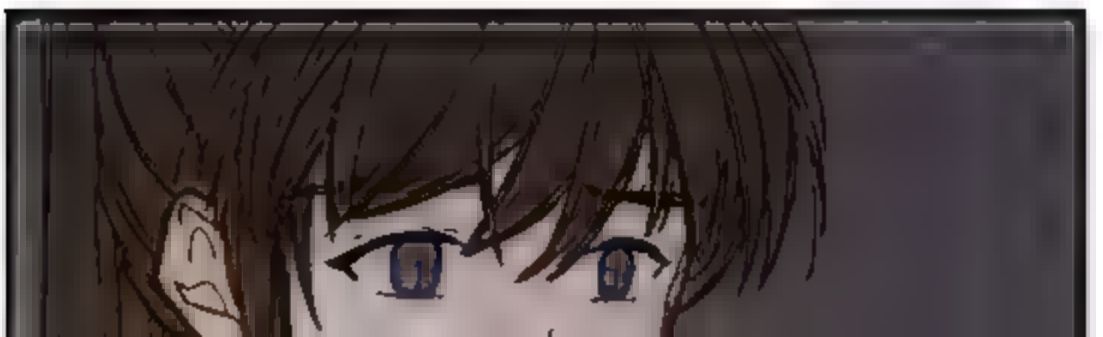
...IT'S NOT THAT
HE DOESN'T SPEAK, BUT
CAN'T SPEAK...?
...

SNORE
ZZZ


ZZ
ZZZ

AND HERE I THOUGHT EVERY DRAGON HAD A PALACE IN THE RIVER'S DEPTHS...
I CANT BELIEVE HE'S SLEEPING OUT HERE LIKE THAT
...BUT I GUESS NOT.

HE DOES HAVE A PALACE, BUT HE REFUSES TO RESIDE IN IT...
WHAT? WHY?

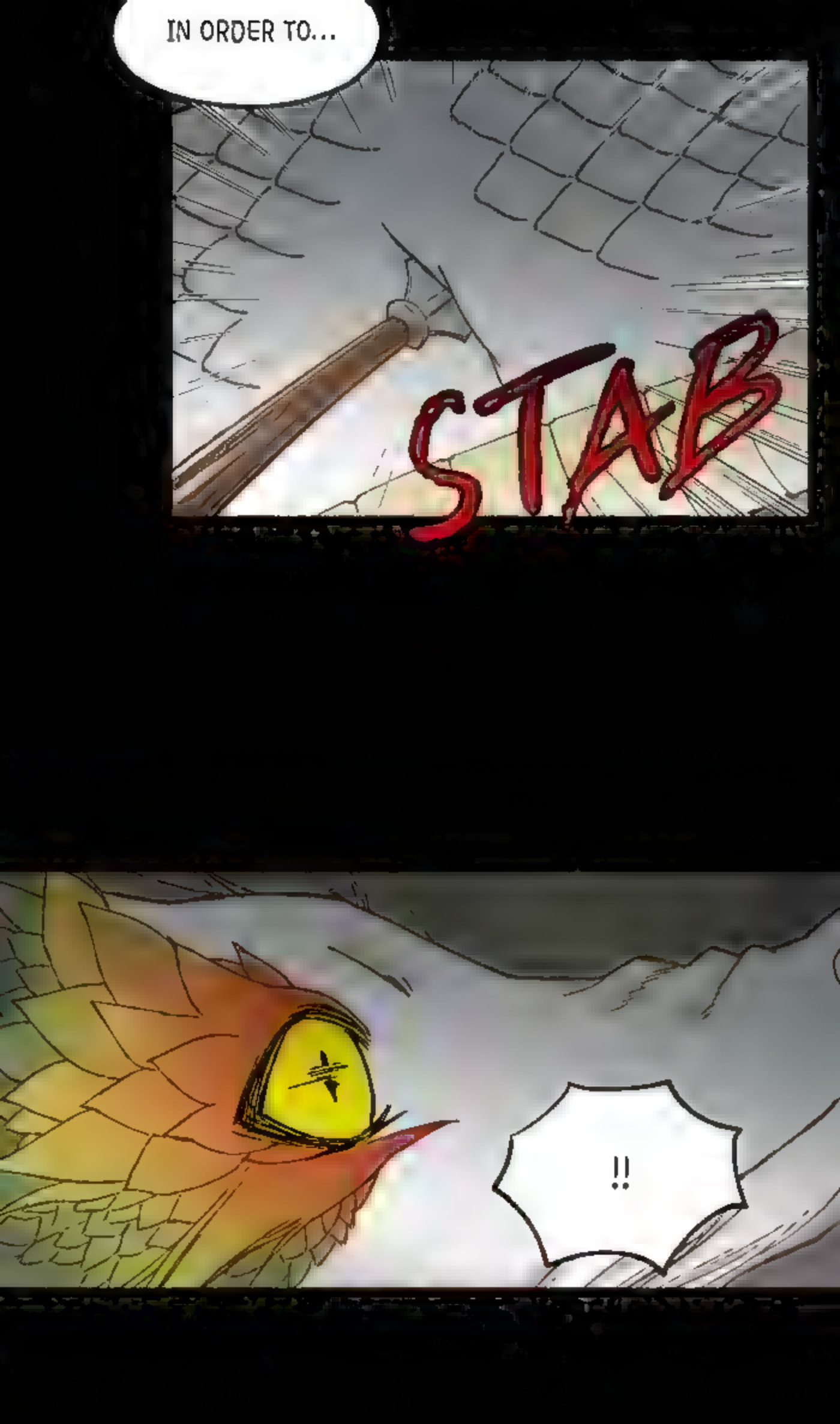


...HE FEELS...

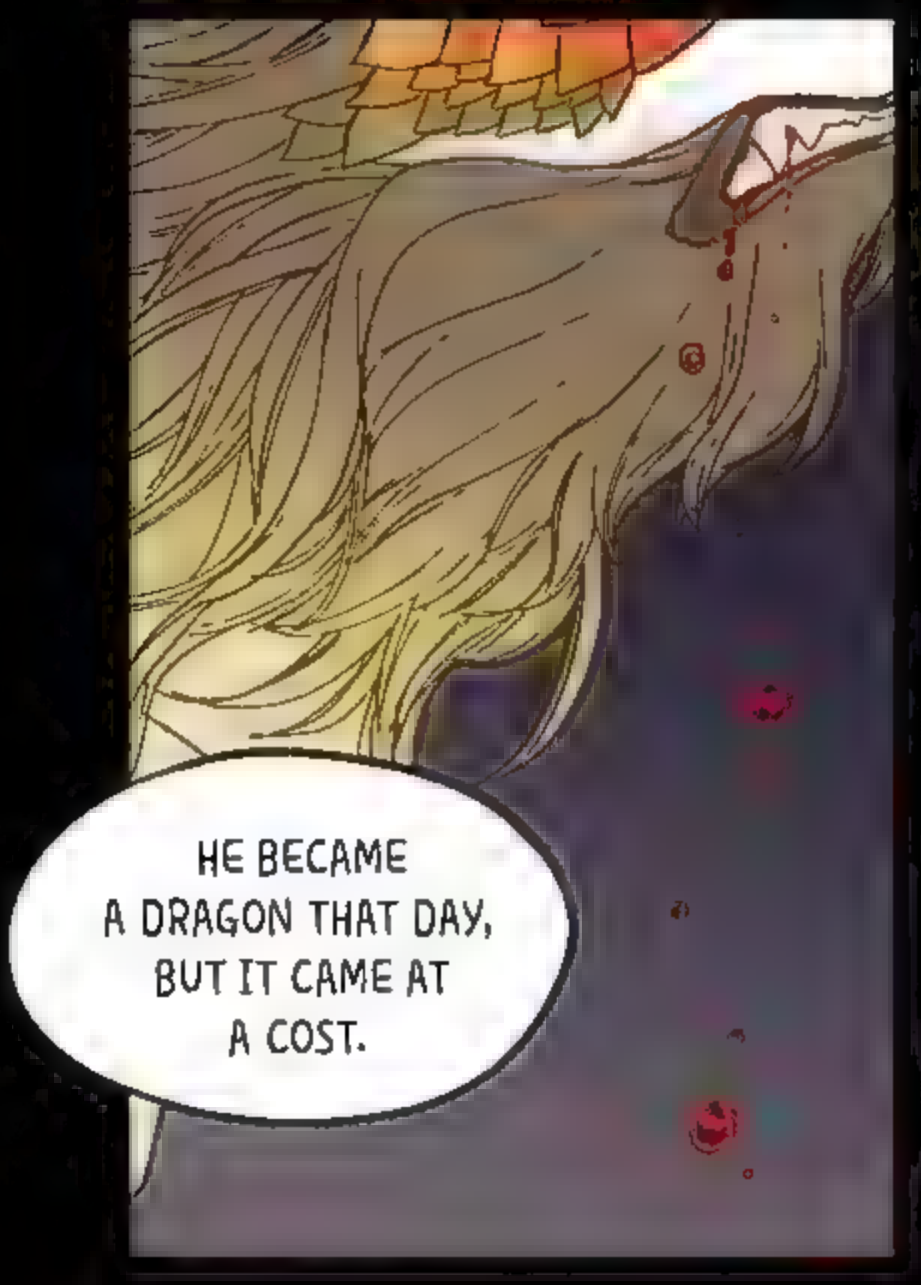
...HE DOESN'T DESERVE IT.

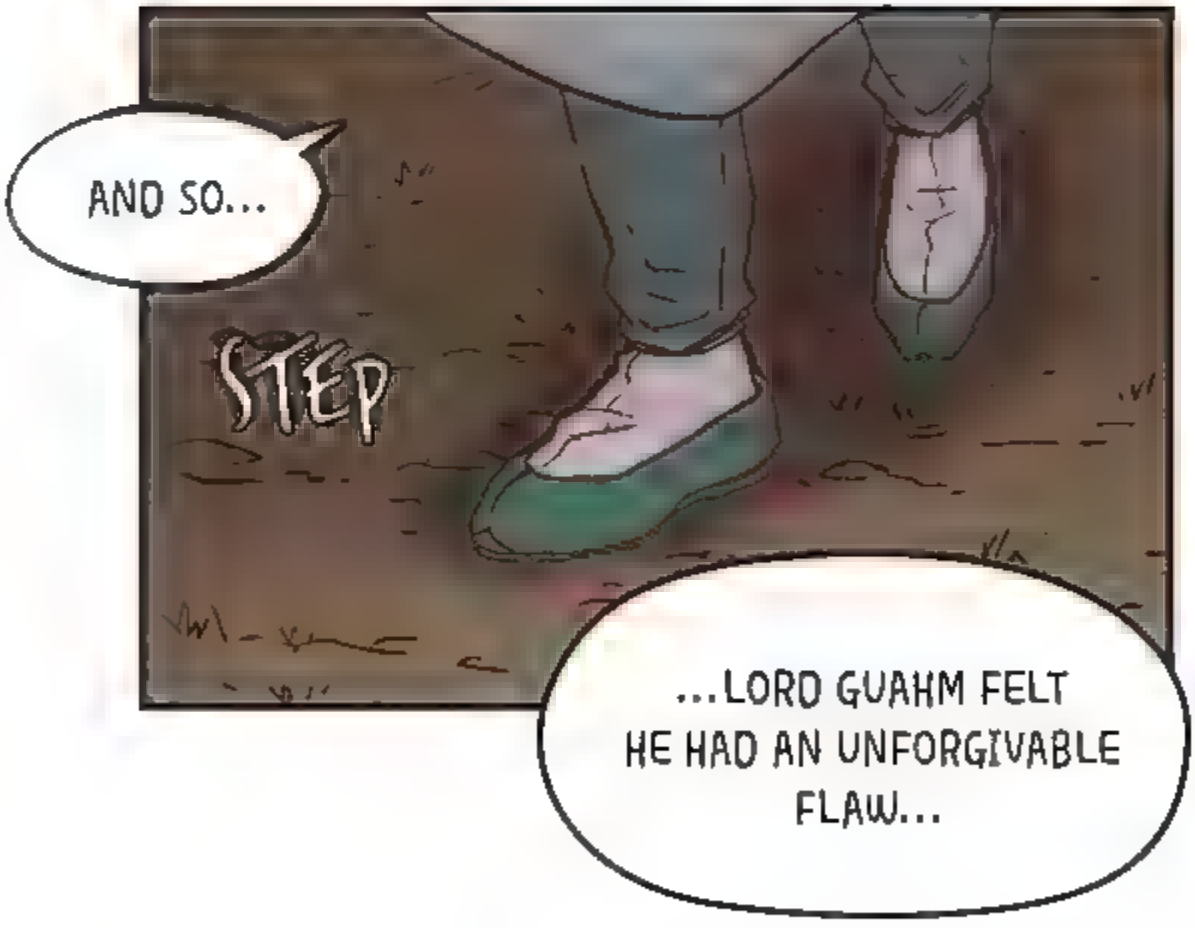
THE SITE OF LORD GUAHM'S ASCENSION...
...WAS A PLACE WHERE FREQUENT SKIRMISHES BROKE OUT BETWEEN HUMANS.

THOSE WHO SAW HIM ASCEND...
...MISTOOK HIM AS AN ENEMY OFFENSIVE TACTIC AND ATTACKED HIM.

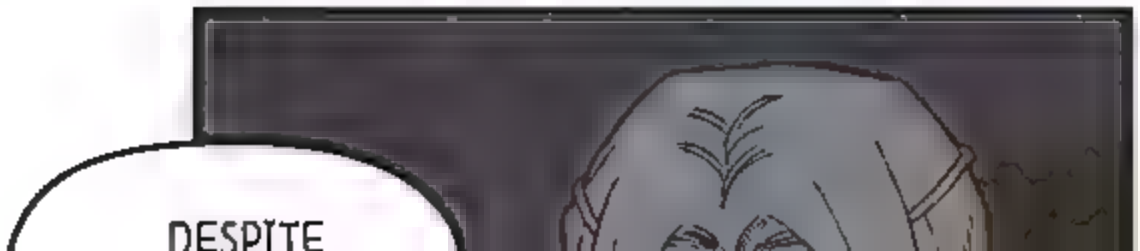

IN ORDER TO...
STAB
!!

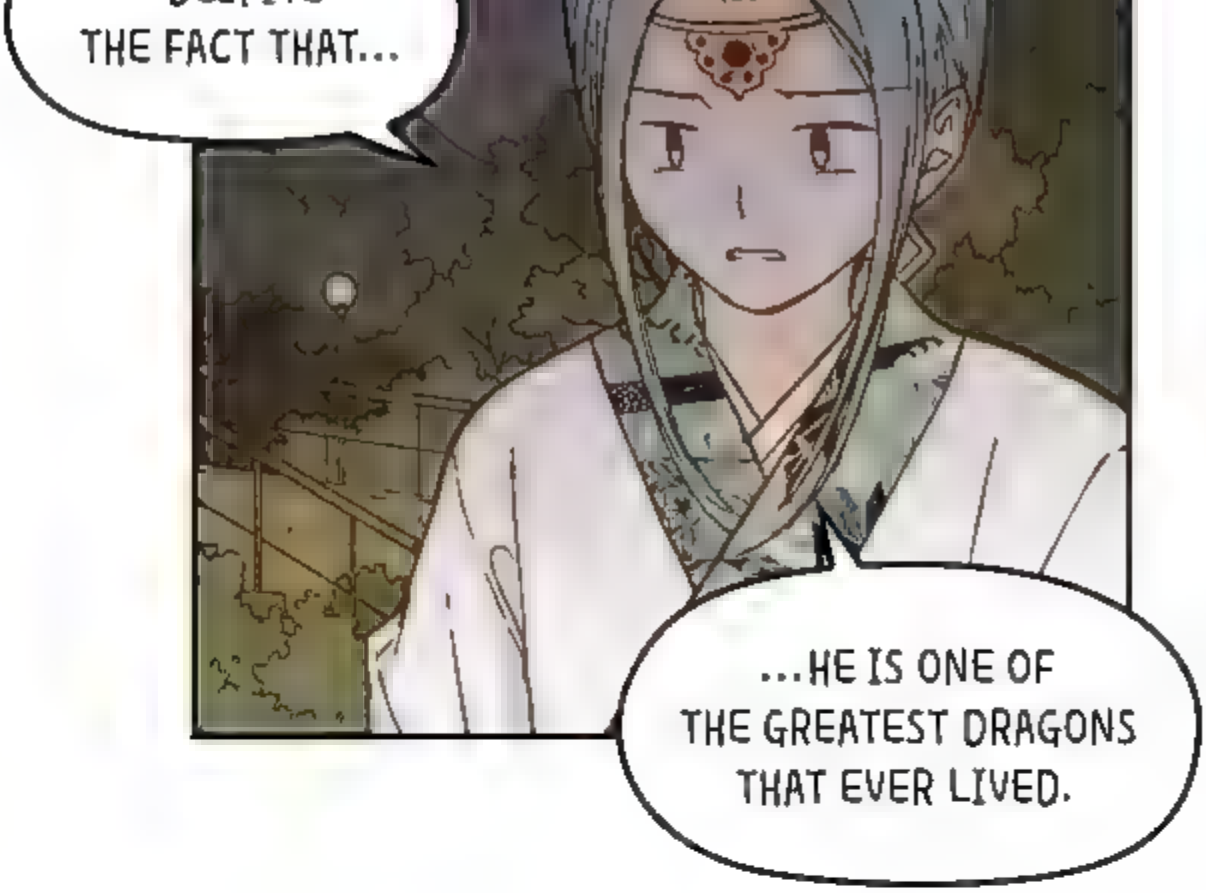
...ENDURE THE PAIN...
WINCE
...HE BIT DOWN ON HIS TONGUE.

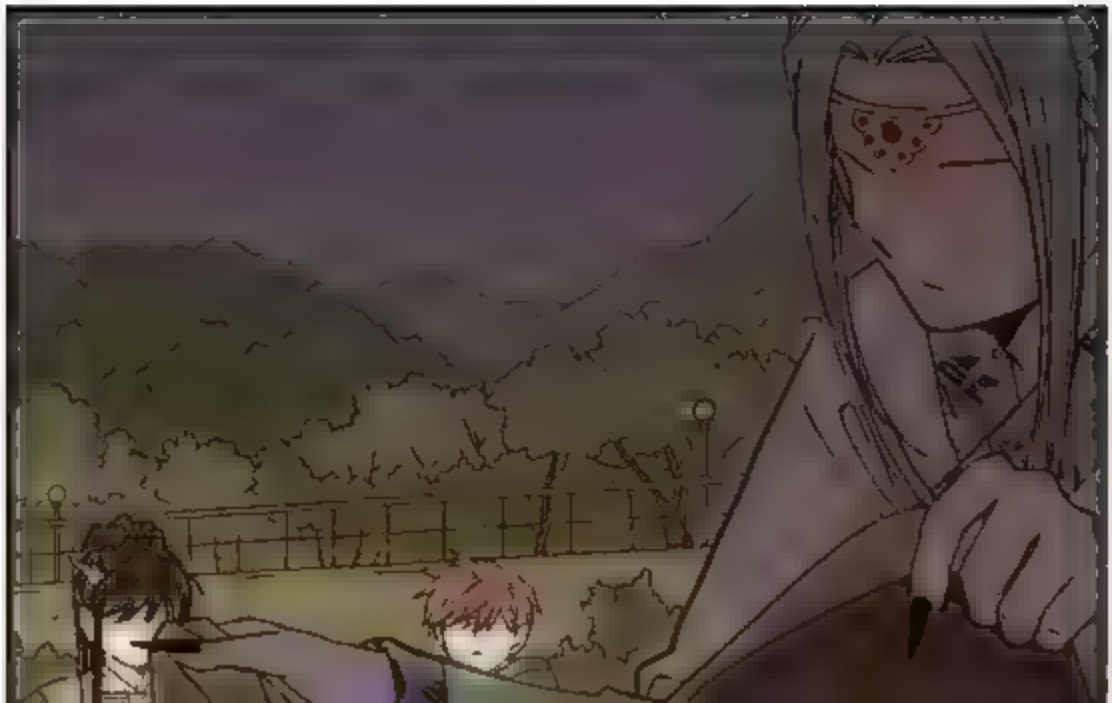

HE BECAME
A DRAGON THAT DAY,
BUT IT CAME AT
A COST.

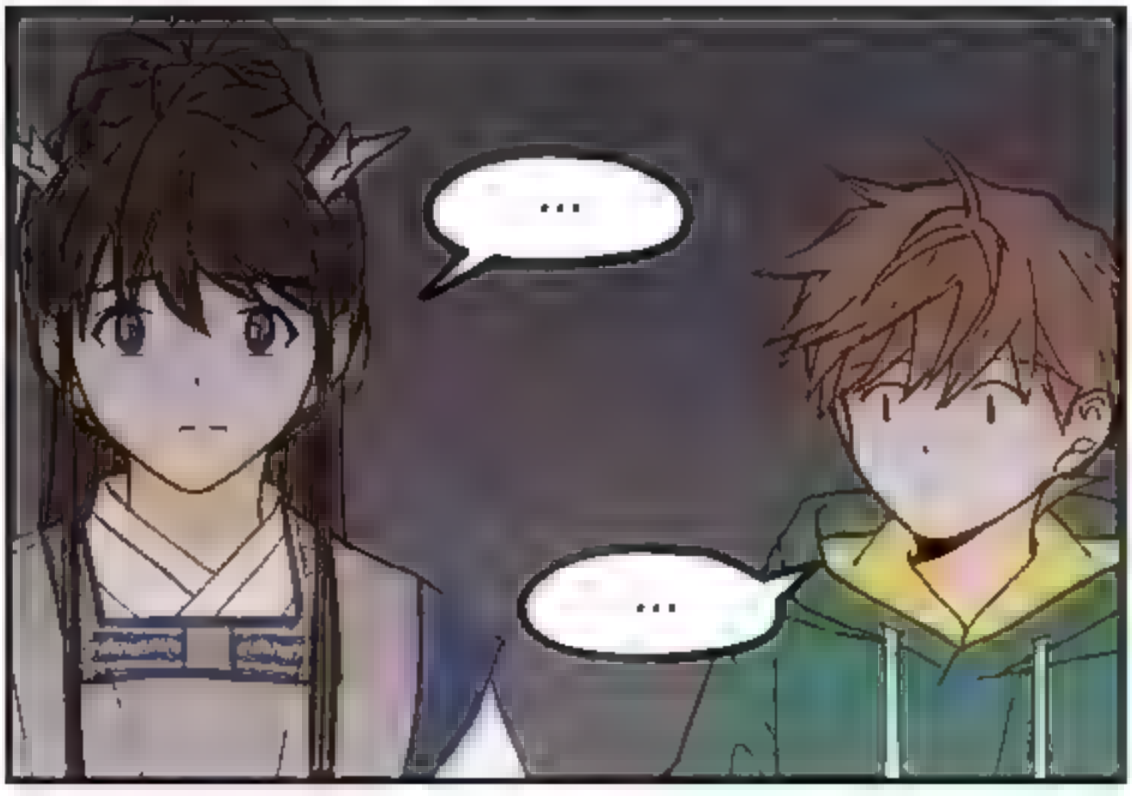

AND SO...
STEP
...LORD GUAHM FELT HE HAD AN UNFORGIVABLE FLAW...

...BECAUSE HE COULD NO LONGER SPEAK.
SINCE THEN, HE'S BEEN WATCHING OVER THE RIVER IN THE HUMBLEST OF GUISES.


DESPITE


THE FACT THAT...
...HE IS ONE OF THE GREATEST DRAGONS THAT EVER LIVED.



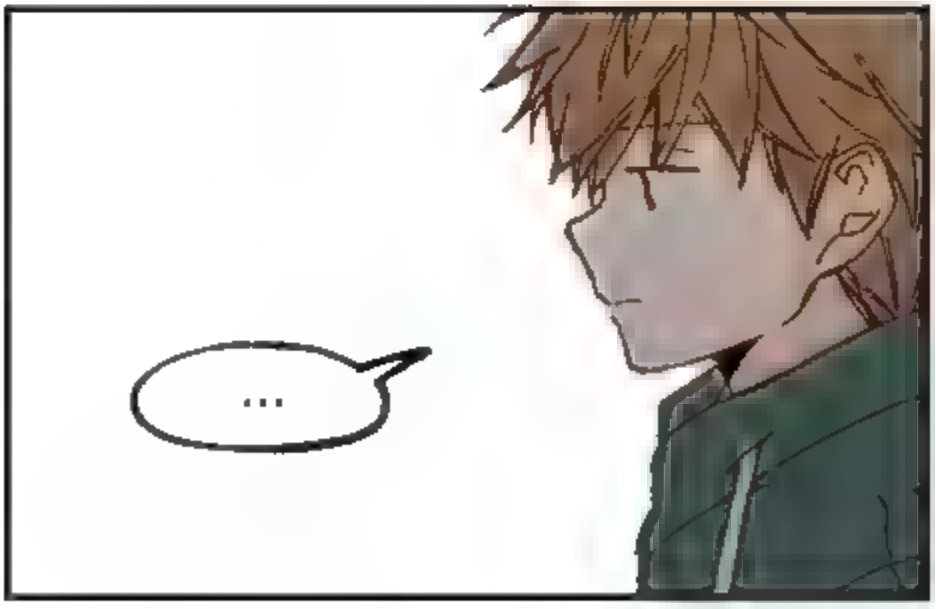


SPLISH
DO YOU WANNA HELP HIM?

...WHAT?

I'M ASKING IF YOU WANNA ASSIST HIM SOMEHOW.
DO YOU FEEL SORRY FOR HIM?
DOES HIS STORY TUG AT YOUR HEARTSTRINGS?
UM... NO...
OF COURSE NOT! MY EXAM COMES FIRST!
YOU'RE NOT
AN IMOOGI
FEELING SORRY FOR

IN A POSITION TO PITY SOMEONE!
A DRAGON?
THAT'S LIKE A PEASANT FEELING BAD FOR A KING!
WE DON'T HAVE ANY TIME TO WASTE!


...

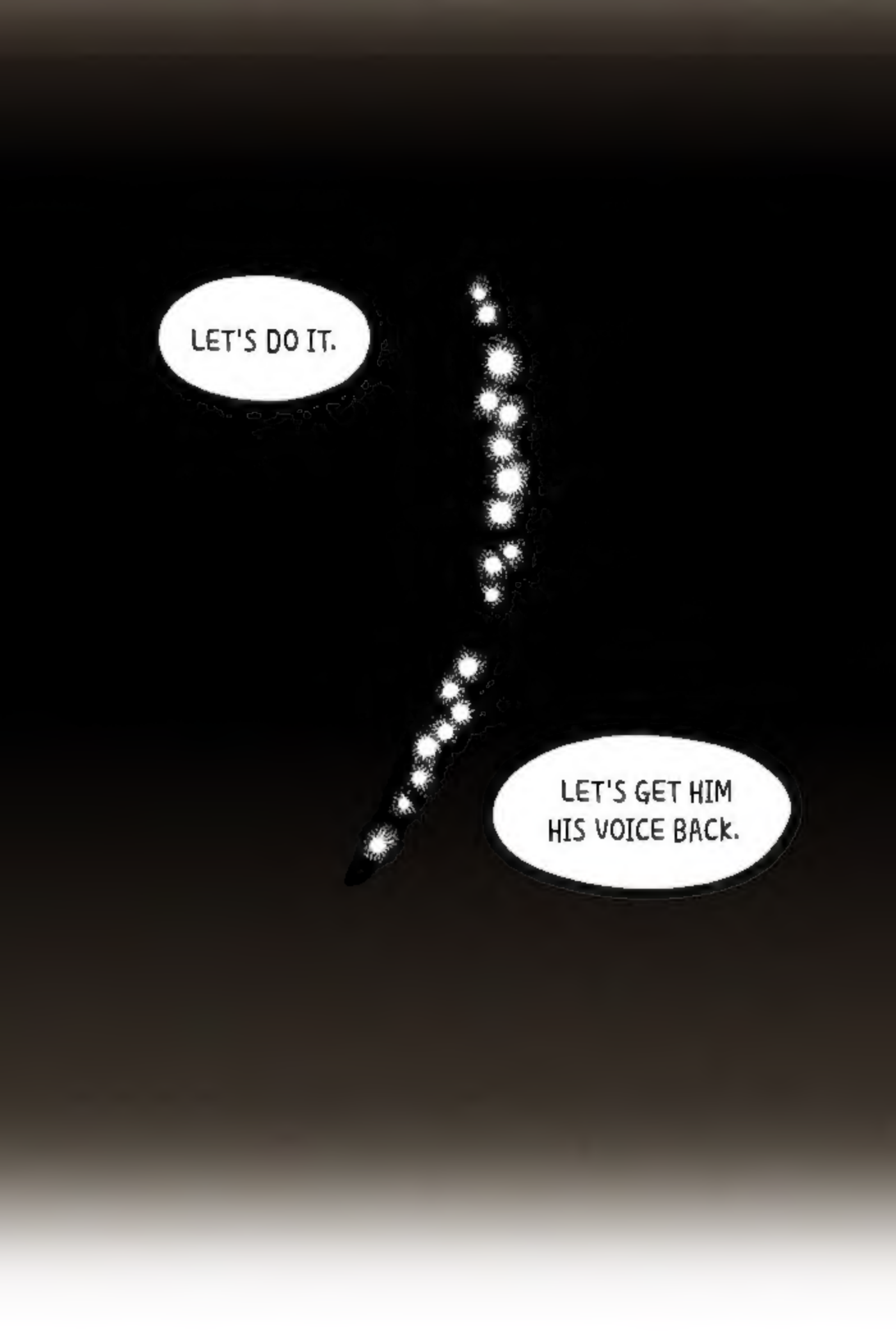
BESIDES, HOW COULD A LOWLY IMOOGI LIKE ME HELP A DRAGON ANYWAY?
...LET'S HELP HIM.

HUH...?
WELL, MAYBE HELP IS THE WRONG WORD.

QUID PRO QUO. THAT'S HOW THE WORLD WORKS.
WE SCRATCH HIS BACK, HE SCRATCHES OURS.

SO THEN...
HOW'S HE SUPPOSED TO WRITE YOUR RECOMMENDATION IF HE CAN'T READ OR WRITE?

IF HE CAN'T *WRITE* YOU A RECOMMENDATION...
...MAYBE HE CAN *RECITE* ONE.


LET'S DO IT.
LET'S GET HIM HIS VOICE BACk.